AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A network monitor for passively monitoring traffic on a dedicated packet-switched data network connecting network controllers controlling associated network elements of an automatically switched optical transport network, said network monitor ~~being configured to~~comprising:

a module to filter protocol frames of a predefined protocol type in the dedicated packet-switched data network by which said network controllers advertise a network topology and status of the automatically switched optical transport network; and

a module to extract from the filtered protocol frames transmitted in the dedicated packet-switched data network information about the network topology and status of the automatically switched optical transport network and display the network topology and status information of the automatically switched optical transport network graphically to a user.

2. (currently amended): A network monitor according to claim 1, comprising a sniffer module configured to capture data from ~~the~~ a data network connection in the dedicated packet-switched data network, or read data from a previously captured file and to pass said data to an evaluation module ~~adapted and~~ programmed to extract said topology and status information of the automatically switched optical transport network from the data and to display the network topology and status information of the automatically switched optical transport network graphically on a display.

3. (original): A network monitor according to claim 1, wherein said frames of a predefined protocol type are OSPF frames comprising information about routing controllers, border nodes of domains and links to and from the border nodes.

4. (previously presented): A network monitor according to claim 1, wherein said network monitor is further configured to represent domains as indicated by their corresponding routing controllers as smaller circles along a circle line of a larger circle.

5. (previously presented): A network monitor according to claim 1, wherein said network monitor is further configured to represent links with idle capacity in a first color and busy links in a second color.

6. (currently amended): A network monitor according to claim 1, further comprising a command line interface connected to one of the network controllers ~~adapted~~ to program said connected network controller to broadcast a request for an immediate update of topology and status information and/or to program said connected network controller to set up a new connection and/or perform other configuration changes in ~~said~~ the automatically switched optical transport network.

7. (previously presented): A network monitor according to claim 1, wherein said network monitor is further configured to detect a mismatch between any two filtered protocol frames and display these frames as ASCII text to a user.

8. (currently amended): A method of passively monitoring traffic on a dedicated packet-switched data network connecting network controllers controlling associated network elements of an automatically switched optical transport network; said method comprising the steps of:

filtering protocol frames of a predefined protocol type in the dedicated packet-switched data network by which said network controllers advertise a network topology and status of the automatically switched optical transport network;

extracting from the filtered protocol frames transmitted in the dedicated packet-switched data network information about the network topology and status of the automatically switched optical transport network and

displaying the network topology and status information of the automatically switched optical transport network graphically to a user.